

UTAH DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES  
THE YOUTH PAROLE AUTHORITY  
AND  
ELECTRONIC CASE FILES

The Youth Parole Authority (YPA), in Utah is a group of 15 Governor appointed citizens who have the responsibility of determining lengths-of-stay, treatment issues, and release or parole dates of delinquent youth who have been ordered into secure care by Juvenile Court Judges throughout the state. These men and women accomplish these responsibilities by conducting parole hearings each week at secure facilities in Ogden, Salt Lake, Provo, and Cedar City.



The Youth Parole Authority was established in 1986. From 1986 to the present time, case files on secure care youth have been prepared in hard copy form and delivered to the YPA members each week in preparation for the actual parole hearings. This has required 4 separate case files be created on each juvenile in secure care. These files are then delivered to the members in a variety of ways including state mail services, US mail, Fed Ex, personal delivery by staff when appropriate, office pick-up by members, or just about any other way we could get files to the YPA members. At one time we even dropped files off, through state mail services to other state office buildings across the Wasatch front that were near where our board members lived for them to pick up. This system of hard copy files delivery has recently come to an abrupt halt. In response to the encouragement of our Division Director, the YPA administrative team has recently created and begun using a system of electronic files that are now delivered to our board members with the click of a computer mouse. The YPA members have been equipped with iPads that now are the means by which they access the case files needed for their parole hearing preparation. This system is still a work-in-progress, but so far, our members are enjoying the new system of files delivery. This electronic file system will result in a variety of cost savings, improve office efficiencies, and provide an opportunity for all those involved to benefit from the current technology, which allows us to do this in the first place.



The Youth Parole Authority is enjoying this major change in its operation, and looks forward to improving the system as time passes.